

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

A REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTER 2:12-17

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE YOU?"

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Jesus Christ, Prophecy, Revelation, End Times

INTRODUCTION to the text:

Revelation 2:12-17

It's a Smart Question to Ask:
Why are there so many Denominations and Representations of the Christian Church?

Agreeing on the Essentials
Differing on the Traditions

Tradition and Ceremony are Men's Creations

Matthew 15:3

He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"

Tradition and Ceremony often Leads to Compromise,
And a Church that Compromises is a Church that Actually Fights Against The Lord Jesus Christ and Maintaining His
Witness in the Earth.

The Gospel and its Message are Never to be Compromised,
And certainly not to gain the acceptance or approval of the world in which it lives.

COMPROMISE WEAKENS A CHURCH BY DESTROYING ITS WITNESS.

One of these destroying factors is the overemphasis of manmade traditions and ceremony.

When a church or denomination begins to uphold its
rules, regulations, or traditions, more than the Word of
God, One of those lines of compromise has been crossed.

Revelation 2:12-17

"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: **13** "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. **14** But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. **15** Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. **16** Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. **17** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it." '

WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE YOU?

I.) When living in a world of compromise

vv. 12

*"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write,
'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:*

Pergamos / Pergamum

- Pergamos located 45 miles north of Smyrna and was a very wealthy city.
- It had the greatest known library in the world in its day which comprised of some 200,000 volumes of writings.
- Pergamos was the birthplace of its most valuable export - paper, parchment or what is called vellum.
- It, like Smyrna, was a very religious city,
- It had, like many Roman cities had, its grand and glorious Altars and Temples to the various Greek gods. The chief god was Asklepios whose image was that of a Serpent
- All that remains of Pergamos today is a little village near the original city, today called Bergama.
- It is still home to Christians today.

When living in a world of compromise:

1.) Church leaders must stay on course

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘

To The “angel, Angels or the Messenger of the Church. *i.e. The Pastor, of the Church at Pergamos*

The Book of James Warns,

James 3:1

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey those who are over you, and be submissive to them, Because they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.

Here, The Pastor Teacher at Pergamos is not only responsible for his own spiritual continuance, but also that of the Church as well!

When living in a world of compromise:

2.) The church needs to remember Jesus' authority

These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

Jesus draws again from the earlier description given.

Revelation 1:16

...out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword...

This “Sword” of His Mouth is referred to Seven Times, (7), in the New Testament.

The Two-Edged Nature of the Sword is that of God's Perfect and Holy Word – The Word of God!

THIS TIME, IT'S IN HIS HAND

On One Hand

The Sharp Two-Edged Sword is the Word of God that Brings Forgiveness and Salvation to All Those Who Believe in Him.

On the Other Hand

The Sharp Two-Edged Sword is the Word of God that Brings Judgment and Wrath upon All Those Who Refuse to Believe in Him.

Revelation 19:15

Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

The Word of Life / The Word of Death

This is Most Applicable to the Believers at Pergamos

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE YOU?

II.) When compromise has you surrounded

vv. 13

13 “I know your works, and **where you dwell, where Satan's throne is**. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, **where Satan dwells**.”

He Gives Three (3) Commendations

1. Where you dwell.
2. Where Satan's throne is.
3. Where Satan dwells.

Pretty Rough Neighborhood

We live in southern California where things are very black and white... But not everything – grey is creeping in!

When compromise has you surrounded:

1.) He knows your commitment of faith

I REJOICE THAT JESUS KNOWS WHERE WE LIVE AS A PEOPLE.

I was recently told that our brothers and sisters in China pray for us who live in the modern Sodom and Gomorrah of the world –
referring to America!

I Had a Young Man from Russia tell me once, "That it is twice as hard to live here as a Christian than in Russia with all that is against you every day, the music, the T.V. evil language,

We Must Remember That:

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it* Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

THEY WERE A CHURCH BOLD FOR JESUS CHRIST EVEN IN THE FACE OF GROSS EVIL

13 "I know your works, and **where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. ...where Satan dwells.**

The word "Dwell" means to have an address there, to be in the community.

IT WAS A DARK AND SINFUL CITY

"Satan's Throne",

was a reference to the greatest of all the pagan altars in the ancient world.

It was an altar dedicated to **Zues** that projected out from the mountainside **90ft.** on each side, standing over **40ft. high, made of solid stone.** Upon that throne gross sexual acts were committed which often led to the human sacrifice of young boys and girls as they were sexually abused to death in the names of these Greek gods.

It's no Wonder then, That The Jews of Christ's Day Referred to That Throne as, **"The Throne of "Satan".**

"I'm Sure Glad That We Didn't Live Back Then".

We Live Like That Now!

We live in an evil age that is equally as evil.

There are massive altars of worship today where children are sacrificed in pornography offerings – souls bought and sold!

Our generation has perfected evil; now being able to display such worship to the world in an instant via the internet.

The Snake-god, savior

Its' very important god was the god,
A-Sk-leep-p-us

He was the god who specialized in physical healings.

Its Temple was named,

A-Sklep-p-us SoTar

"ASKLEPPUS THE SAVIOR",

Welcome to The City of Satan Hospital.

Archaeological discoveries from Pergamos

Have unearthed coins with Asklep-p-us the serpent coiled around a pole with the writing = **Asklep-p-us Sotar,**
Satan the Savior, (Sign of the M.D).

Revelation 12:9

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan...

Jesus tells the Church at Pergamos, "You Live in a Very Difficult and Demonic Place"

If you lived there, you were expected to attend its services and its ceremonies

1 Corinthians 10:20

be careful... "for the things which those who do not believe in Christ sacrifice to, they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

When compromise has you surrounded

2.) He knows your "conviction" to your faith

And you **hold fast** to My name,

Grk;

And you **hold fast** to My name,

2902. κρατε+ω κρατεο, krat-eh'-o; from 2904; to grab on to, to seize and you've kept holding on.

Your "conviction" to your faith determines the life you live, what you say in private and public, the decisions you make.

You hold fast to My name, "you do what Jesus would do".

When compromise has you surrounded

3.) He knows your "courage" by your faith

13...and **did not deny** My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Hebrews 12:3

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. **4** You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

How small was this church? We don't know.
How big was this church? We do not know.

They Were Commended for their faith.

13...even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Luke 16:10

"Whosoever is faithful with very little, will also be faithful with very much..."

Matthew 25:21

And so the Lord said unto him, "Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things..."

The Man Antipas, we know nothing about him other than what is important; he was a faithful witness of Jesus Christ.

He followed in the footsteps of his Savior

Revelation 1:5

from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness...

Revelation 3:14

...These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness,

Antipas was "Identified" with Jesus Christ

Acts 5:40-42

And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. **41** So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. **42** And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

How do we live our lives?

Could people mistake us for Jesus Christ, for being a Christian?

WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE YOU?

III.) When compromise must be rebuked

vv. 14-15

**Here's where the whole thing goes south.
Jesus Commends Them on Three Fantastic Fronts,**

But Fourthly, Jesus Gives Them Their Diagnosis

You know – you could go to your doctor and get a blood test and for (9) points out of (10) you could be doing great until He reads your white-blood cell count - - you could be dying of cancer!

But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold **the doctrine of Balaam**, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. **15** Thus you also have those who hold **the doctrine of the Nicolaitans**, which thing I hate.

We Have a Satanic Enemy According to Jesus Christ, and that would be Satan.
He is wise, cunning, patient, deceiving and experienced!

Satan has a specific plan working against you personally.

He has a specific plan working against your **husband**.

He has a specific plan working against your **wife**.

He has a specific plan working against your **child**.

He has a specific plan working against your **teenager**.

He has a specific plan working against your **pastor**.

He has a specific plan working against your, (this) **church, the United States, and the World**.

Satan Hates us with a Perfect Hatred

Genesis 4:6

So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? **7** If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do evil, sin awaits you - at the door. And its desire *is* for you, - you should rule over it." – **like a lion!**

When compromise must be rebuked

1.) Are you willing to judge yourself with the scriptures

14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold **the doctrine of Balaam**, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

If there was ever a, "If you can't beat em' join em'" maneuver, it was this one:

For money, Balaam was hired by the enemies of Israel to pronounce a curse upon Israel, but God prevented that from happening, so guess what?

Balaam told Israel's enemies,

"Invite Israel to your parties. Hang out with em' and make em' think that you mean them no harm. Trick em' into thinking you're friends; you'll conquer them by deceit.

Satan's Strategy is Always Slick

He Uses a Backslidden Prophet of God by The Name of **Balaam**, (Numbers 22 to 25).

Balaam was Guilty of Two Great Evil's:

#1

Balaam was a Prophet Who Prostituted His Office for Financial Gain

2 Peter 2:15

They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

Jude 1:11

Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit,

#2

Balaam, as a Prophet encouraged mixed marriages of the Believers to non-believers.

The Cults of Pergamos allowed, even endorsed, sinful conduct among its members, which would then cause them to seek the approval of the gods...creating an endless cycle of sexual Immorality and religious worship. "They would live as they pleased, then run to the temples for atonement".

COMPROMISE

ATTEMPTS TO MIX SEPARATED THINGS, TOGETHER AS ONE.

"There is nothing wrong with being friends with Rome and its worship".

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. **4** For if he who comes preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it! = **Compromise**

The Jesus of the Cults is Not the Same Jesus of the Bible

2 Corinthians 6:14-15

Do not be united together with unbelievers. For what closeness of fellowship has righteousness conduct with lawlessness conduct? And what communion does light share with darkness? **15** What unity does Christ have with Satan? Or what bond has a believer with an unbeliever?

Balaam, put a stumbling block before the children of Israel,

- To eat things sacrificed to idols, (false worship),
- And to commit sexual immorality, (carnal living).

False Worship Leads to a False Life

Balaam Tried to Curse Israel – *that didn't work.*

So He Told the Enemy, if you want to destroy Israel, tempt the men with some really seductive women. Get some real hotties out there and the girls will lead these men over to their altars of sexual worship. God is holy and will slay them for their sins.

If Satan Can't Get You One Way Then He'll Bring Compromise to Us – *its really effective!*

Just Look at a Compromising Christian, They are a Problem Child of the Church.

A Church that is Compromising Is a church that is trying so hard to not look like a church, to not sound like a church, to not feel like a church.

If we look, sound, and feel like the world then the world will come on in and we can have big crowds and cool productions and they'll never know the difference. We'll even get some money out of it!

Jesus is not Ashamed of the Church nor is He embarrassed to call us Brothers

When compromise must be rebuked

2.) Are you willing to forsake false doctrine

Thus you also have those who hold **the doctrine of the Nicolaitans**, which thing I hate.

Revelation 2:6

To the Church at Ephesus - -

This you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, **2** speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

1 Timothy 6:4-5

Such people are proud, knowing nothing, but are obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, **5** useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of gain*. From such withdraw yourself.

The Nicolaitans

Lords Over the People; A person group that assumes a spiritual priesthood, which stands in the place of Jesus Christ.
Jesus says "I Hate That".

Matthew 23:8

But you, do not be called "Master; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.

According to Jesus Christ,
If Billy Graham is Born Again - Then He's My Brother

According to Jesus Christ,
If the Pope is Born Again - Then He's My Brother

According to Jesus Christ,
If I'm Born Again - Then I'm your Brother
In The Church - We Are Brothers in the Faith, and Servants of One Another

WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE YOU?

IV.) When He calls you to repent

vv. 16

16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

When He calls you to repent

1.) You had better respond or else

Repent, or else...

The Roman Governors
Had been granted the right to take a man's life in **Capitol** Punishment.

Eos Gladi, (the right to the sword).

He had the Authority to End a Persons Time on Earth.

Jesus Says – Wake Up Church!

Eos Gladi, (the right to the sword).

I have the Authority to End a Persons Time on Earth,

With the word of My mouth.

***If You Don't Repent and set Things Straight in the Church
I will come to you quickly with the sword of My mouth.***

Lets Not Compromise, People.

When He calls you to repent

2.) You will receive His correction

I will come to you quickly.

Rome Boasted of its Judicial Powers; that it was true, accurate and swift!

A mismanaged life, A mismanaged church, Brings Jesus' rebuke.

When He calls you to repent

3.) You will experience the change

16b ...and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

WHAT KIND OF CHURCH ARE YOU?

V.) When He invites you to take His promise

vv. 17

